

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 T-03 OMB-01 /140 W
----- 061138

O R 151151 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3055

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KOORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

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CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1922

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08;
7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI: MACTHAI FOR J2
AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 15

REF: VIENTIANE 1877

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - LEVEL OF GROUND ACTION,
ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH LAOS, AGAIN INCREASED MODERATELY
DURING PERIOD 13-14 MARCH. THERE WERE FOUR MAJOR INCIDENTS:
THREE ENEMY- INITIATED ATTACKS SOUTH OF THAKHEK AND ONE
FRIENDLY- INITIATED ATTACK NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE.
LATTER IS AIMED AT REASSERTING RLG PRESENCE IN AREA THAT
WAS NOMINALLY UNDER FRIENDLY CONTROL AT CEASEFIRE. ELSE-
WHERE, THERE WERE EIGHT SCATTERED MINOR CLASHES AND
SHELLINGS. RLAF FLEW T-28 SORTIES IN ONLY TWO AREAS ON
14 MARCH, BOTH IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT: BUT THE
SORTIE RATE JUMPED BY 12 TO 36. REPORTED ARTILLERY EX-
PENDITURES DROPPED TO ZERO ON 12 MARCH (SECOND DAY SINCE
CEASEFIRE). FOUR PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED AT SALA
PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION. POLITICAL - CABINET, MARCH 14 ,
DECIDED THAT PRIMIN SHOULD EXPLAIN VIENTIANE AGREEMENT IN WRITING
TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE AND LATER SUBMIT
NEW PGNU TO ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE

A. MR I: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

B. MR II: ACTION DROPPED SHARPLY WITH ONLY ONE MINOR
INCIDENT REPORTED -- SMALL CLASH NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG ON
13 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW FOUR T-28 SORTIES
ON 14 MARCH, TWO IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT VICINITY
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THA VIANG (TWO ENEMY CONFIRMED KBA) AND TWO AGAINST ENEMY

TROOP CONCENTRATIONS VICINITY MEDICAL EVACUATION EFFORT
NORTHEAST OF MUONG SOUI (NO RESULTS OBSERVED).

C. MR III: STATE OF FLUX CONTINUED IN AREA SOUTH AND
SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK, WHERE THERE WERE THREE MAJOR AND
THREE MINOR INCIDENTS. ONE MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED
APPROX. 15 KM SOUTH OF THE TOWN MORNING 13 MARCH (0400 Z),
WHEN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION, SUPPORTED BY SUSTAINED
MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED FRIENDLY POSITION NEAR VE 825085;
FRIENDS WITHDREW NORTH WITH ONE MIA. AT SAME TIME,
ANOTHER MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN ESTIMATED ENEMY
COMPANY, SUPPORTED BY 120 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, WAS REPULSED
IN ATTACK ON NEARBY POSITION (VE 860110) (NO CASUALTIES).
THIRD MAJOR INCIDENT WAS ESTIMATED TWO- COMPANY ENEMY-
INITIATED GROUND ATTACK AND MORTARING (28 ROUNDS) OF
POSITION TEN KM SOUTH OF THAKHEK (VE 835136) MORNING 14
MARCH (132310 Z) (NO CASUALTIES). THE THREE MINOR INCIDENTS
WERE ALL CLASHES APPROX 20 AND 40 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK
ON 13 MARCH (TWO FRIENDLY WIA, ONE ENEMY KIA, ESTIMATED
SEVEN OTHER ENEMY CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW NO T-28 SORTIES
ON 14 MARCH AND TWO AC-47 SORTIES PREVIOUS NIGHT IN SUPPORT
OF TROOPS IN CONTACT IN FOREGOING AREAS.

D. MR IV: ONE MAJOR AND FOUR MINOR INCIDENTS WERE RE-
PORTED. FRIENDLY BATTALION ATTACKED AND ENTERED
VILLAGE, APPROX 28 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE VICINITY
XC 124356, MORNING 14 MARCH (0315 A). FRIENDS REMOVED
ALL CIVILIANS FROM VILLAGE, WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER
NOMINAL RLG CONTROL AT CEASEFIRE, AND THEN CALLED IN AIR
STRIKES AGAINST SMALL ENEMY FORCE BUNKERED IN VILLAGE AND
LARGER ENEMY UNIT NEARBY THAT RESPONDED WITH MORTAR FIRE
THROUGHOUT REMAINDER OF DAY (THREE FRIENDLY KIA, 19 WIA).
RLAF FLEW 32 T-28 SORTIES ON 14 MARCH, ALL IN SUPPORT
OF TROOPS IN CONTACT, AS WELL AS AGAINST ENEMY MORTARS
AND TROOP CONCERNTRATIONS, IN FOREGOING AREA. DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT WAS SIX ENEMY CONFIRMED AND 13 PROBABLE KBA
PLUS FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED; LAO FAC NOTED FIVE HOUSES
DESTROYED BY THE FIGHTING IN THE VILLAGE. ELSEWHERE, MINOR
SHELLING AND MINOR CLASH OCCURRED SHOUTHWEST OF PAKSONG ON
13 AND 14 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). FARTHER SOUTH , ENEMY
BURNED ROUTE 13 BRIDGE APPROX 70 KM SOUTH OF PAKSE ON
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13 MARCH AND ATTACKED FRIENDLY POSITION APPROX 60 KM SOUTH
OF PAKSE ON 14 MARCH (ONE FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF FLEW ONE
AC-47 SORTIE DURING NIGHT 13-14 MARCH IN SUPPORT OF PAKSONG
TROOPS.

E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. FOUR PATHET LAO SOLDIERS RALLIED AT SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION OF ROUTES 13 AND 4/7 MORNING 14 MARCH.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED 15 ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 229 AS OF MORNING 13 MARCH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION
IN CABINET MEETING MARCH 14, IT WAS DECIDED THAT PRIMIN WOULD EXPLAIN VIENTIANE AGREEMENT TO ASSEMBLY' S STANDING COMMITTEE BY MEMO AND WOULD LATER SUBMIT THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO AN EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY SESSION AS WAS DONE IN 1962. SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD APPEAR INCONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE HELD INCONCLUSIVE MEETING MARCH 15 AND DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN MARCH 19, BY WHICH TIME ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOU SANANIKONE TOLD DEPUTIES HE EXPECTED TO HAVE REPLY FROM SOUVANNA REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.

GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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